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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/28/2003

Donald F. Gordon

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BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD

ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENT NUMBER 007412

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EXAMINER

BROWN, RUEBEN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2424

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/15/2010

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/694,658	Applicant(s) GORDON ET AL.	
	Examiner REUBEN M. BROWN	Art Unit 2424	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 January 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-20 and 22-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-20 and 22-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the references do not teach the claimed subject matter. Examiner notes that it appears that applicant is arguing that the references do not teach that a first EPG screen is transmitted to a receiver, from a remote location; and then a second EPG screen is transmitted to a receiver, from a remote location. However, it is pointed that the claims do not recite any transmission of EPG screen(s) from any remote locations.

Notwithstanding this above discussion, Eyer teaches that the server transmits EPG pages in a preformatted manner, see col. 2, lines 49-57; col. 7, lines 27-45; col. 8, lines 16-35. Thus, the transmission of EPG pages in Eyer, corresponds with the claimed EPG screen(s), recited in the claims.

As for applicant's argument that Aristides does not meet the additional feature of non-simultaneous display, examiner also respectfully disagrees. When the viewer in Aristides chooses a particular time slot, other than that the time slot that is currently shown on the screen, the reference teaches that if the EPG for that now selected time slot is not found locally, then the database server retrieves the EPG from the database according to the corresponding bucket

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number, for instance the bucket number 348, as shown in the example, col. 4, lines 45-60; col. 5, lines 41-60. Therefore, in Aristides a page of EPG is also transmitted from the server. If a viewer chooses a different EPG time slot from what is currently displayed on the screen, by definition the new EPG page/screen would not be simultaneously displayed with the current EPG page/screen.

As for claim 19, it is argued that the templates in Hendricks are not displayed. Examiner respectfully disagrees.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-18 & 31-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aristides, (U.S. Pat # 5,630,119), in view Eyer, (U.S. Pat # 5,801,753).

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Considering claim 15, the amended claimed method of providing a plurality of programs to at least one information subscriber equipment, comprising;

'forming, for a first plurality of channels, a first program guide information stream, such that the first program guide information stream comprising video representation of a first program guide screen displaying programming offered by each of the plurality of channels during a predetermined period, wherein the program guide information stream includes video objects associated with respective parameters', is met by the disclosure of Aristides that teaches an EPG data stream transmitted from the server to the subscriber, in response to a subscriber request, col. 4, lines 50-67; col. 5, lines 40-59. Aristides provides an example of a subscriber making a request for EPG data (which reads on the claimed 'program guide information...') for a time period of 9:30-10:00 (which reads on the claimed 'predetermined time period'). As a result of this request, the headend retrieves and transmits EPG data for programs that overlap with instant time period, using a bucket number technique, which still reads on the claimed subject matter. Since MPEG data is video and the channel are selectable units, the claimed video objects is met by the reference.

'forming, for a second plurality of channels, a first program guide information stream, such that the first program guide information stream comprising video representation of a second program guide screen displaying programming offered by each of the plurality of channels during a predetermined period, wherein the program guide information stream includes video objects associated with respective parameters...the second program guide video

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objects arranged substantially the same manner as the first program guide information objects', the claimed additional limitation is met by any subsequent request for a EPG data in a time period, as disclosed by Aristides. Aristides anticipates that over time, a subscriber will request EPG covering different time period(s) and different lists or groups of channels.

'providing the first and second program guide information streams to the consumer, such that they are temporarily aligned according to the predetermined time' Aristides does not specifically discuss that the information streams are temporally aligned. However, Eyer provides a teaching wherein EPG data is transmitted first as trickle data stream, and then as demand data stream is delivered to the customer. Particularly, the EPG information for the current time period is followed by the EPG information for the upcoming time period(s), see co. 5, lines 49-65; col. 6, lines 14-65. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Aristides with the technique of providing different EPG streams temporally aligned, for the desirable advantage of providing the EPG information to the subscriber in a more timely manner, as taught by Eyer, col. 1, lines 5-68.

As for the additional feature, *'wherein the second program guide screen and the first program guide screen are configured for non-simultaneous display'*, when the viewer in Aristides chooses a different EPG time slot from what is currently displayed on the screen, by definition the new EPG page/screen would not be simultaneously displayed with the current EPG page/screen.

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Considering claim 16-17, 35 & 38, the claimed feature of contextually related program guide information reads on the disclosure of Aristides that EPG data may be grouped and indexed for retrieval, col. 5, lines 15-56. Eyer discusses that the data may be repeated, col. 13, lines 25-; col. 17, lines 1-35.

Considering claim 18, the claimed subject matter is met by the trickle data and demand data, as logical streams, multiplexed together as a single physical stream, col 6, lines 14-35.

Considering claims 31-33 & 36, the claimed subject matter is met by the combination of Aristides (col. 4, lines 49-64; col. 6, lines 19-61) & Eyer (col. 6, lines 5-45).

Considering claims 34 & 37, the claimed apparatus , comprising elements that correspond with subject matter mentioned above in the rejection of claim 15, is likewise treated. As for the additionally claimed processor & memory, both Aristides (Fig. 1; col. 4, lines 29-55; Fig. 5; col. 5, lines 61-67) & Eyer (col. 5, lines 31-61; col. 12, lines 51-67 thru col. 13, lines 1-25) meets the language.

4. Claims 19-20 & 22-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aristides & Eyer, further in view of Hendricks, (U.S. Pat # 5,734,853).

Considering claim 19, the claimed system providing a plurality of programs to at least one consumer, comprising elements that correspond with subject matter mentioned above in claim 15, are likewise treated.

As for the additionally claimed, 'selecting in response to a user interaction a first time period of interest, and identifying a first physical channel including program guide information associated with a first time period of interest' reads on the disclosure of both Aristides & Eyer, in which the subscriber selects time period(s) for EPG data.

Regarding the further claimed, *'retrieving from memory a graphic overlay, comprising graphic objects each of the plurality of graphic objects having a predefined position visually cooperative with a display position of a corresponding video object and selectively emphasizing the video objects'*, Aristides does not discuss such a feature. Nevertheless, Hendricks which is in the same field of endeavor of interactive program guides, provides a teaching of an EPG template being stored at a subscriber STT, col. 11, lines 51-67 thru col. 12, lines 1-20.

Hendricks teaches that at least part of the template is to highlight a customer's selection of a program, which reads on the claimed subject matter, see col. 25, lines 35-67 thru col. 26, lines 1-45. It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Aristides with the feature of locally storing interactive graphic overlay, at least for the advantage of reducing the need to transmit all of the EPG components at one time, as taught by Hendricks, (col. 16, lines 59-67) which at least saves bandwidth.

The claimed feature of '*displaying the first program guide information*' is included in both Aristides (col. 3, lines 45-67), Eyer (col. 4, lines 35-54; col. 13, lines 6-19) & Hendricks, (col. 14, lines 12-35).

Considering claim 20, since Aristides/Eyer teaches multiple streams of EPG data, as discussed above, the additionally claimed feature of a second program guide information stream, is also necessarily met.

Considering claim 22, the claimed video layer, presented as a video stream, also corresponds with the discussion of Hendricks that the EPG objects are overlaid on the received video stream, see col. 7, lines 15-60;

Considering claims 23-30, the overlay menu graphics in Hendricks meets the claimed subject matter, since it is used to place EPG in their appropriate position on the screen. Furthermore, Hendricks discloses that the overlay menu, covers portions of the TV screen, which reads on x-y border that encloses the video layer, col. 13, lines 14-67 thru col. 14, lines 1-10; col. 16, lines 1-67.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

or faxed to:

(571) 273-8300, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(571) 273-7290 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reuben M. Brown whose telephone number is (571) 272-7290. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:00-6:00), First Friday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (571) 272-7331. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300 for regular communications and After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Annan Q Shang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2424

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